

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 EUR-12 DHA-05 /079 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S: JCTAYLOR:GFH  
APPROVED BY AF/S: DENNIS KEOGH  
-----002782 260045Z /64

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL DURBAN IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 255548

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:MNUC, PINT, SOPN, SF

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF AFRICAN TOPICS AT OCTOBER 25  
NOON PRESS BRIEF4G

1. THE FIRST 20 MINUTES OF THE BRIEFING WAS DEVOTED TO QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA.
2. ASKED WHETHER AMBASSADOR BOWDLER HAD RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES, THE SPOKESMAN (TRATTNER) FOLLOWED THE GUIDANCE. ON TWO OCCASIONS IT WAS REQUESTED THAT BOWDLER OR SOME OTHER HIGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL FAMILIAR WITH THE SOUTH AFRICA POLICY BRIEF THE PRESS. THERE WERE SEVERAL QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT BOWDLER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PRC MEETING, OR WHETHER HE HAD MET WITH VANCE OR THE PRESIDENT, AND THE SPOKESMAN SAID HE WOULD TRY AND FIND OUT.

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3. THERE WERE MANY QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT WHAT ACTION THE U.S. WOULD TAKE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, AND WHETHER WE WOULD SUPPORT UN SANCTIONS, AND THE SPOKESMAN REFUSED REPEATEDLY TO SPECULATE ON WHAT ACTION WE MAY OR MAY NOT TAKE. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE STATEMENT BY ANDREW YOUNG IN WHICH HE FAVORED

SOME KIND OF SANCTIONS.

4. ASKED ABOUT YOUNG'S STATEMENT THAT A DECISION WOULD BE MADE IN A FEW DAYS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID HE COULD NOT PREDICT A SPECIFIC TIME.

5. LES KINSOLVING ASKED WHETHER SANCTIONS WOULD BE APPLIED TO UGANDA AND THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IT WAS NOT A LIVE POSSIBILITY AT THIS POINT.

6. THERE WERE SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS INVOLVED ON THE SOUTH AFRICA QUESTION AND THE SPOKESMAN SAID HE WOULD TRY TO FIND OUT ABOUT MEETINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED.

7. THERE WAS A LENGTHY EXCHANGE ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN PROMISES CONCERNING ITS NUCLEAR TESTS AND THE PROMISES TO PRESIDENT CARTER, GIVEN THE RECENT STATEMENTS BY BOTHA AND VORSTER. THE SPOKESMAN REPEATED THE MONDAY GUIDANCE SEVERAL TIMES, AND REFERRED THE QUESTIONS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO STATEMENTS BY SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY. THERE WERE SEVERAL REQUESTS TO SEE THE TEXT OF THE OCTOBER 13 LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT, AND TRATTNER SAID HE WOULD TRY AND GET THE CONTENTS AND MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESS. MANY OF THE QUESTIONS REVOLVED AROUND THE ISSUE OF WHETHER WE HAD RECEIVED A PLEDGE, PROMISE, OR ASSURANCE FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, AND THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ASSURANCE IS OUR WORD. SEVERAL TIMES IT WAS ASKED IF VORSTER'S AND BOTHA'S RECENT STATEMENTS DIDN'T NULLIFY EARLIER PROMISES BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND TRATTNER AGAIN REPEATED YESTERDAY'S GUIDANCE. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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